SERVING THE PUBLIC SINCE 1878 • WINNER OF 18 PULITZER PRIZES

stl TODAY

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

FRIDAY • 11.17.2017 • $1.50

HOUSE PASSES TAX PLAN

GOP OVERHAUL WOULD CUT TAXES BY AS MUCH AS $1.5 TRILLION

Critics: Businesses, the wealthy will benefit • **Proponents:** Bill will fuel economy

BY MIKE DEBONIS AND DAMIAN PALETTA
Washington Post

WASHINGTON • The House passed its version of the Republican tax overhaul Thursday, notching a key win for President Donald Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin.

Obstacles, however, remain in the Senate, which is refining its own version of the legislation amid objections from key GOP senators.

The bill passed with 227 votes in favor and 205 against. Thirteen Republicans voted against the bill. No Democrats voted for it.

Trump and Republican leaders in Congress are aiming to pass a bill that would cut taxes by as much as $1.5 trillion by the end of the year. Both the House and Senate bills deliver the majority of the cuts to businesses and wealthy Americans, but there are significant differences between the bills that will have to be resolved.

See TAX • Page A11

The measure passed 227-205, with 13 Republicans joining Democrats in opposition

Prospects are uncertain in the Senate, where the GOP holds a slim two-seat majority

Passing the bill is only the first step; the two versions would need to be reconciled

Fire crews, media dodged disaster

CHRISTIAN GOODEN, • cgooden@post-dispatch.com

Firefighters spray water on the smoldering remains of a warehouse near 39th Street and Park Avenue on Thursday a day after a huge blaze swept through the building. One firefighter suffered smoke inhalation.

BY DENISE HOLLINSHED
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • Wednesday's fire started small in the basement of a warehouse near 39th Street and Park Avenue about 10:15. a.m., but firefighters had difficulty finding the source in the building's smoky and maze-like interior.

As the basement filled with smoke, flames and intense heat, firefighters were ordered out of the building with multiple calls over fire radios and loud horn blasts from fire equipment about an hour after the fire started. Firefighters continued to battle the fire from outside and the roof, but the situation "rapidly deteriorated," St. Louis Fire Capt. Garon Mosby said.

The firefighters were ordered back, and as they were moving, there was a whooshing sound. Black smoke billowed out of the building's doors and windows. Fire burst through the roof, and a wall on the south side of the building collapsed onto a fire-truck still parked close to the building. It was 11:29 a.m.

It was such a close thing, Mosby said, that "we had a roll call to make sure no one was in the rubble." Amazingly, while one firefighter suffered smoke inhalation during the blaze, no one was hurt in the collapse.

On Thursday, firefighters continued pouring water on the

See FIRE • Page A3

Publisher plans to begin again after loss of 200,000 books • **A3**

Groping accusation prompts apologies from Franken

He says he's ashamed, calls for ethics inquiry into his conduct

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON • Broadcaster and model Leeann Tweeden said Thursday that Al Franken "forcibly kissed" and groped her during a USO tour in 2006, two years before the Minnesota Democrat's election to the U.S. Senate — prompting Franken to apologize and call for a Senate ethics investigation into his own actions.

"You knew exactly what you were doing," Tweeden wrote in a blog post. "You forcibly kissed me without my consent, grabbed my breasts while I was sleeping and had someone take a photo of you doing it, knowing I would see it later and be ashamed."

The allegations came two days after a stunning hearing in Washington in which lawmakers acknowledged sexual harassment is a pervasive problem on Capitol Hill — and amid mounting sexual misconduct accusations against Alabama Republican Roy Moore, who has brushed off calls from GOP leaders to end his Senate campaign.

See FRANKEN • Page A5

Moore defiant as GOP braces for long clash

Alabama candidate for Senate hurls challenge back at female accusers

BY STEVE PEOPLES AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. • Ever defiant, Republican senatorial candidate Roy Moore's campaign lashed out Thursday at the women accusing him of sexual misconduct, declaring, "Let the battle begin." Women's advocates decried the talk as worn intimidation tactics in a desperate attempt to keep his imperiled Senate bid alive.

Moore ignored mounting calls from Washington Republicans concerned that, as they prepared for a difficult midterm election season, Moore may not only lose a seat they were sure to win but also may do significant damage to the party's brand among women nationwide.

Moore's team showed no such concern.

"You ask me if I believe the girls. No, I don't believe the girls. I believe Judge Moore," Moore chief strategist Dean Young said. "Let the

See MOORE • Page A5

FCC loosening media ownership rules

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON • The Federal Communications Commission has voted to undo key roadblocks to increased consolidation among media companies, potentially unleashing new deals among TV, radio and newspaper owners as they seek to better compete with online media.

The Republican-led FCC voted 3-2 to eliminate the 42-year-old ban on cross-ownership of a newspaper and TV station in a major market and to make it easier for media companies to buy additional TV stations in the same market, and for local stations to jointly sell advertising time and for companies to buy additional radio stations in some markets.

Big media companies including Tegna Inc., CBS Corp. and Nexstar Media Group Inc. have cited the rule change as motivating them to consider expansion opportunities.

"This is really about helping large media companies grow even bigger," Democratic FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn said, adding that Republicans were "more intent on granting the industry's holiday wish list early rather than looking out for the public interest."

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai

See FCC • Page A5

Police issue order on journalists' rights • A3

Emerson raises its bid for Rockwell • B1

NL MVP Stanton knows he may be on move • C1

Blues dominate Oilers in 4-1 victory • C1

TODAY
57°/55°
PATCHY DRIZZLE

TOMORROW
63°/32°
A.M. SHOWERS

WEATHER
C10

The bottom line

POST-DISPATCH WEATHERBIRD ®

1 M 0 09189 21100 9 DAY
Vol. 139, No. 321 ©2017

VOLVO

WEST COUNTY VOLVO
636-200-2822 • www.wcvolvo.com
14410 MANCHESTER ROAD MANCHESTER, MO 63011

2017 S60 DYNAMIC
Lease for 36 months,
$329 per mo*
$329 due at signing
stk#18858

2018 VOLVO XC90 T5 AWD
Lease for 36 months,
$529 per mo*
$529 due at signing

2017 XC60

SAVE UP TO $10,000
on remaining inventory

*Total due includes $0 cap cost reduction. Customer to pay first payment, tax, title, license and dealer administrative fee. Lease at 7,500 miles per year (additional miles are available). No security deposit with approved credit. Financing through VCFS. Expires 11/30/17. ALL TRADE-IN ACCEPTED